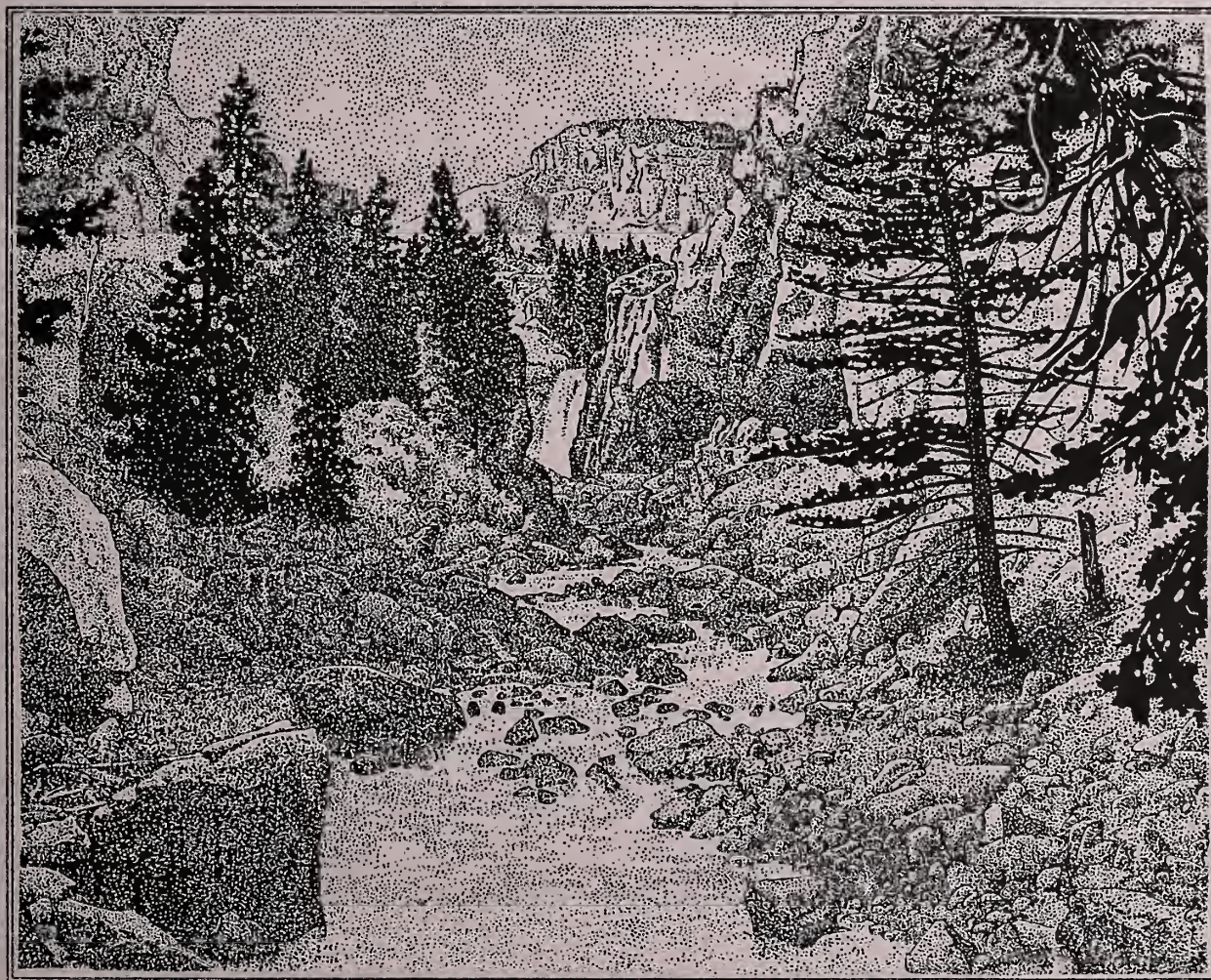


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# 1993 MONTANA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

## *Executive Summary*



Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks

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# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

## STATE OF MONTANA



MARC RACICOT  
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL  
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-0801

Dear Reader:

I am pleased to present to you the 1993 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. This plan maintains the state's eligibility to receive funding from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants Program.

For over 25 years the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has administered Montana's share of the program, financing more than 750 projects statewide representing a \$60 million investment of federal, state and local dollars. The 1993 plan represents a cumulative effort of 25 years of comprehensive planning.


The 1993 plan is also the most widely circulated of any previous Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for public comment and review, with copies transmitted to each town, city, county, tribal government and federal government agency in Montana.

I hope that you will find the 1993 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan both informative and useful. I take pleasure in endorsing these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc Racicot".

MARC RACICOT  
Governor



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State of Montana  
Marc Racicot, Governor

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Patrick Graham, Director

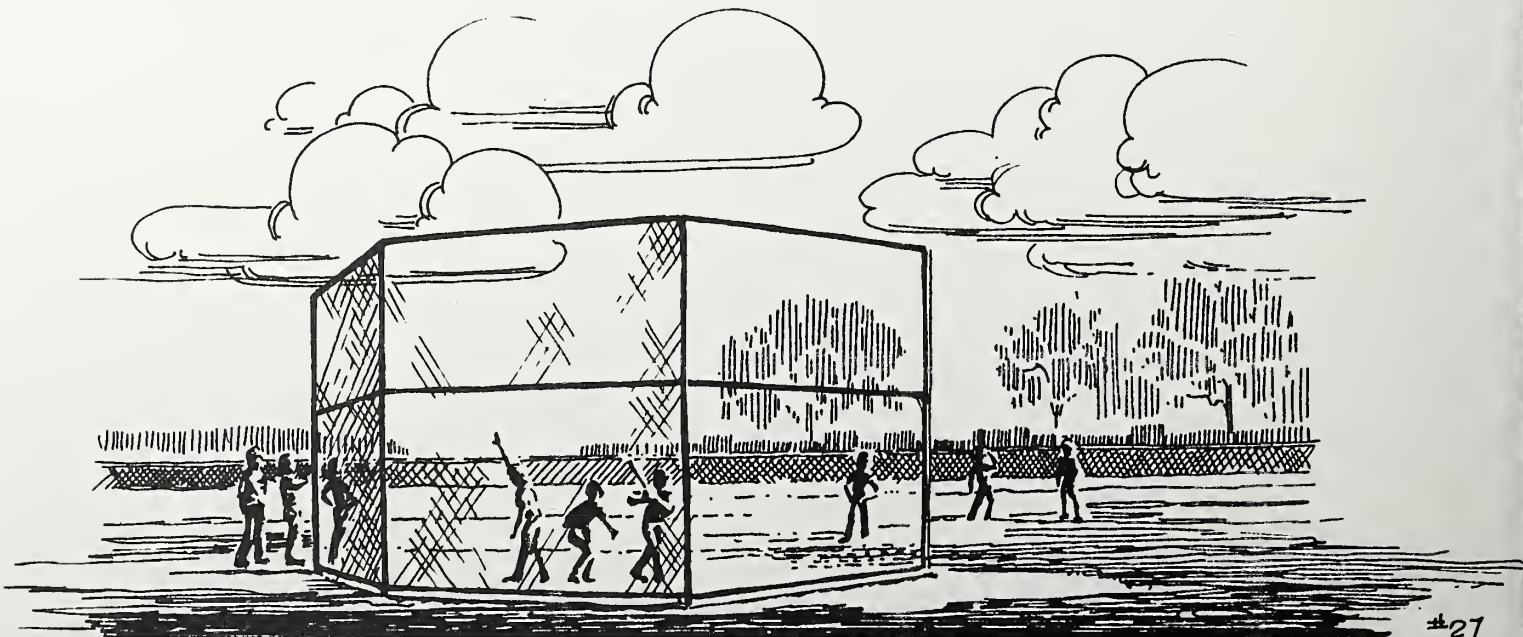
State Parks Division  
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Jeffrey Tiberi, Bureau Chief  
James Domino, Outdoor Recreation Planner &  
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# CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i> .....	<i>PAGE 1</i>
<i>SCORP TRENDS</i> .....	<i>PAGE 3</i>
<i>LOCAL GOVERNMENT FACILITY AND NEEDS ANALYSIS</i> .....	<i>PAGE 10</i>
<i>ISSUES OF CONCERN</i> .....	<i>PAGE 12</i>
<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE SCORPS</i> .....	<i>PAGE 16</i>
<i>FOCUS AREAS</i> .....	<i>PAGE 17</i>
<i>MONTANA WETLANDS</i> .....	<i>PAGE 20</i>
<i>PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION</i> .....	<i>PAGE 22</i>
<i>OUTLINE OF THE PLAN</i> .....	<i>PAGE 23</i>
<i>CONCLUSION</i> .....	<i>PAGE 23</i>



## INTRODUCTION

Montana is endowed with an abundance of outstanding natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources. Its citizens have a outdoor legacy linked inseparably to the land. The name Montana is derived from the Spanish word for mountain, with the western third of the State dominated by the rugged northern ranges of the Rocky Mountains. The central and eastern portions of the state are a mixed composite of high plains, rolling hills and isolated prairie mountain ranges. Montanans place tremendous importance on ensuring that their outdoor recreational needs are met, and that the State's rustic attributes are properly managed and conserved for present and future generations.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), through the Parks Division, has prepared the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as a means to identify the outdoor recreational needs and desires of Montanans, and as a way of identifying programs and actions to fulfill those needs in a way that will benefit all Montanans. The legal authority for outdoor recreation planning in Montana is derived from Section 23-2-101, Montana Code Annotated (MCA). Section 23-2-102 MCA authorizes Montana's participation in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578). The Parks Division administers the LWCF program, which provides matching grants to state and local governments for acquisition, development and improvement of outdoor recreation resources or facilities. The National Park Service is responsible for administering the LWCF program for the federal government. A SCORP is required from each state at least every five years in order to remain eligible for LWCF revenues. In the 27 years since the act passed, Montana has received approximately 60 million to fund more than 750 projects, ranging from half-acre city parks, to 55,000 acre Wildlife Management Areas.

The 1993 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) has been developed to provide guidance and cohesiveness to the management of outdoor recreation resources in Montana, and to facilitate services provided to users by federal, state and local governments and the private sector. It differs from previous SCORP documents in that a contemporary assessment of needs, issues, participation in outdoor recreation activities, and policies to address problem areas has been achieved by looking at SCORP planning efforts over the past 27 years since the first Montana SCORP was published in September of 1965. Recently conducted public assessments and inventories are also included in this process.

The 1993 SCORP initiates what is hoped to be an on-going process of self-evaluation, assessment, and action to address a more narrowly focused range of concerns. This will include planning frameworks, needed research, and actual measurable outcomes, as opposed to previous SCORPs which attempted to cover a broad spectrum of outdoor recreation issues, and identified actions with little or no evaluative substance. This is not a venture to de-emphasize the many significant problems and challenges facing natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation management efforts in Montana, but simply an effort to transform SCORP to a more workable and useable planning tool. Past SCORPs mainly served as a comprehensive information source for a specific point in time, requiring updating every five years. They generally lacked clearly defined goals, measurable objectives, and did not maintain social science methodological standards from one SCORP to the next.

The Analysis of Trends section utilizes information from research conducted outside, as well as within the seven previous Montana SCORP processes to identify patterns in recreation participation, issues, actions and policies, and recreation needs. Also provided are recommendations for standardizing data collection and survey techniques, and basic definitions of various recreational activities. This information and data collected from other studies referenced in the report serve as the basis for the three focus areas that the 1993 SCORP will address.





# AN ANALYSIS OF TRENDS IN RECREATION PARTICIPATION AND SCORP POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Developed by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research,  
University of Montana, February 1992.

Principle researchers: Dr. Susan Yuan, Theron Miller and Steve  
Smith. Fish, Wildlife and Parks Project Coordinator: James P.  
Domino.

## Report Highlights

This report describes the results of an analysis of seven SCORPs prepared by the state of Montana. Three areas were specifically addressed: outdoor recreation participation, issues and actions, and outdoor recreation needs. In addition to examining these components, the report makes recommendations for future SCORPs.

Of the 41 recreation activities examined, day hiking was participated in most often. Walking, bicycling, fishing, bird watching, and pleasure driving were among other very popular activities.

A comparison of nine activities was made across a decade. Five activities, fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling remained quite stable across the ten-year period. Hunting and bicycling had modest increases, while participation in camping decreased slightly. Downhill skiing was the only activity where participation changed drastically, increasing over the ten-year period. Overall, picnicking was consistently the activity with the most participation.

The proportion of total participation attributed to residents and non-residents changed from 1969 to 1983. In 1969, more of the total participation was attributed to non-residents than residents. The reverse was true in 1983.

A total of 61 issues emerged or were identified in the seven SCORPs. The largest number of issues, seven, were related to agency roles in recreation or coordination among agencies. There was a large increase in the number of issues addressed from 1965 to 1988. The 1988 SCORP contained 23 issues, while the 1965 SCORP contained only five. Issues related to funding/financing, agency roles in recreation, coordination among agencies, the environment and tourism consistently surfaced in all three decades.

More than three hundred actions were identified to address the issues. However, there was no apparent effort in the SCORP process to track actions from one SCORP to another to determine if actions were carried out.

Nineteen facility and/or activity needs were identified in the SCORPs. Three areas, campground facilities, picnic facilities, and swimming facilities, emerged as needs in four or more of the five SCORPs examined.

Many of the barriers to participation identified by individuals were, for the most part, under the control of the individual. For example, the individual exerts substantial influence over barriers such as lack of time, lack of equipment and lack of skill.

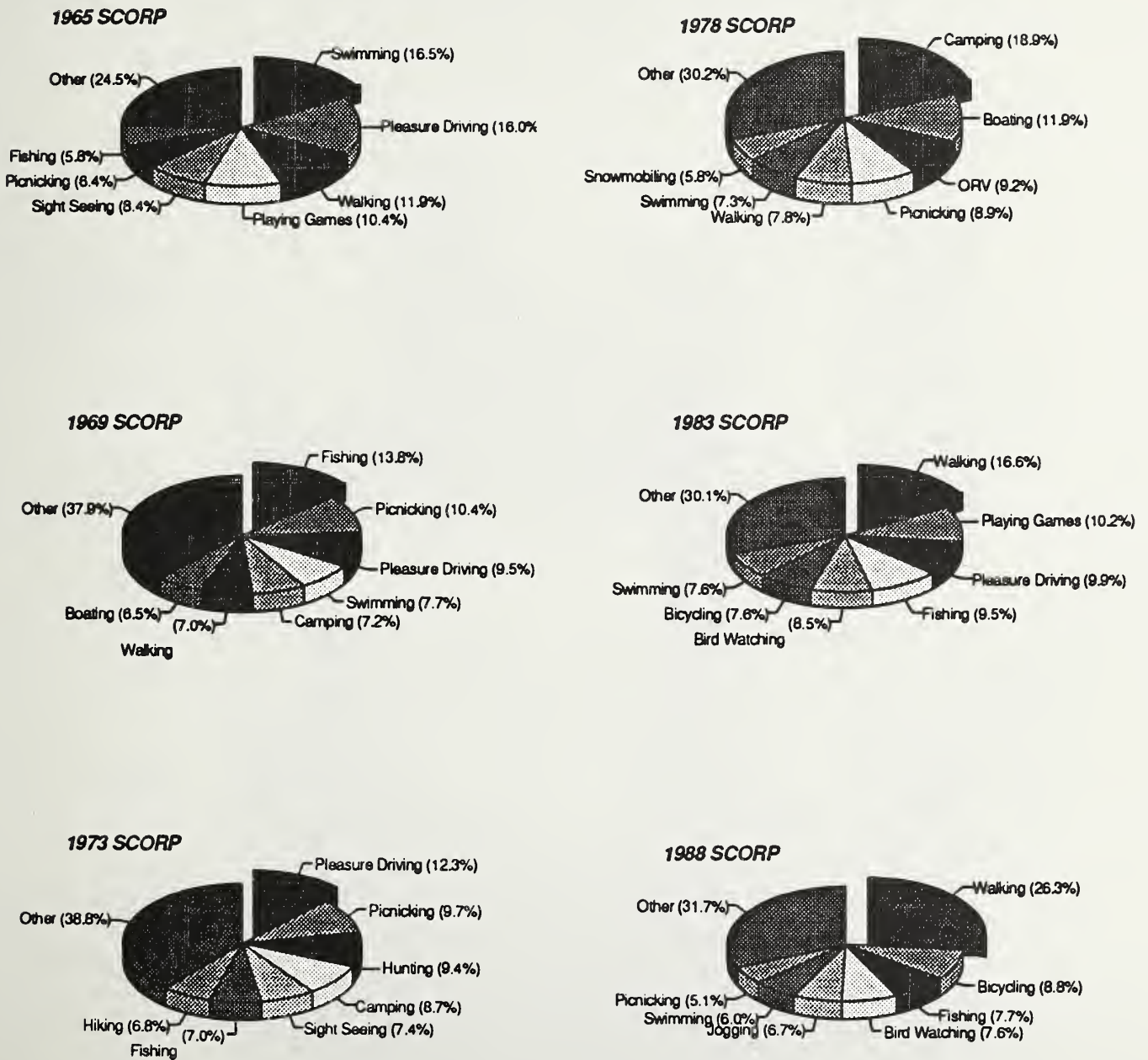
The report makes several recommendations for future SCORPs. These include the need to establish consistency in the SCORP process, determine what is to be accomplished through the SCORP, develop a specific format for the report, include non-residents in the analysis, and include aids for the reader (table of contents, page numbers, etc.) in the document.

The following graphs and tables display some of the results of this study.



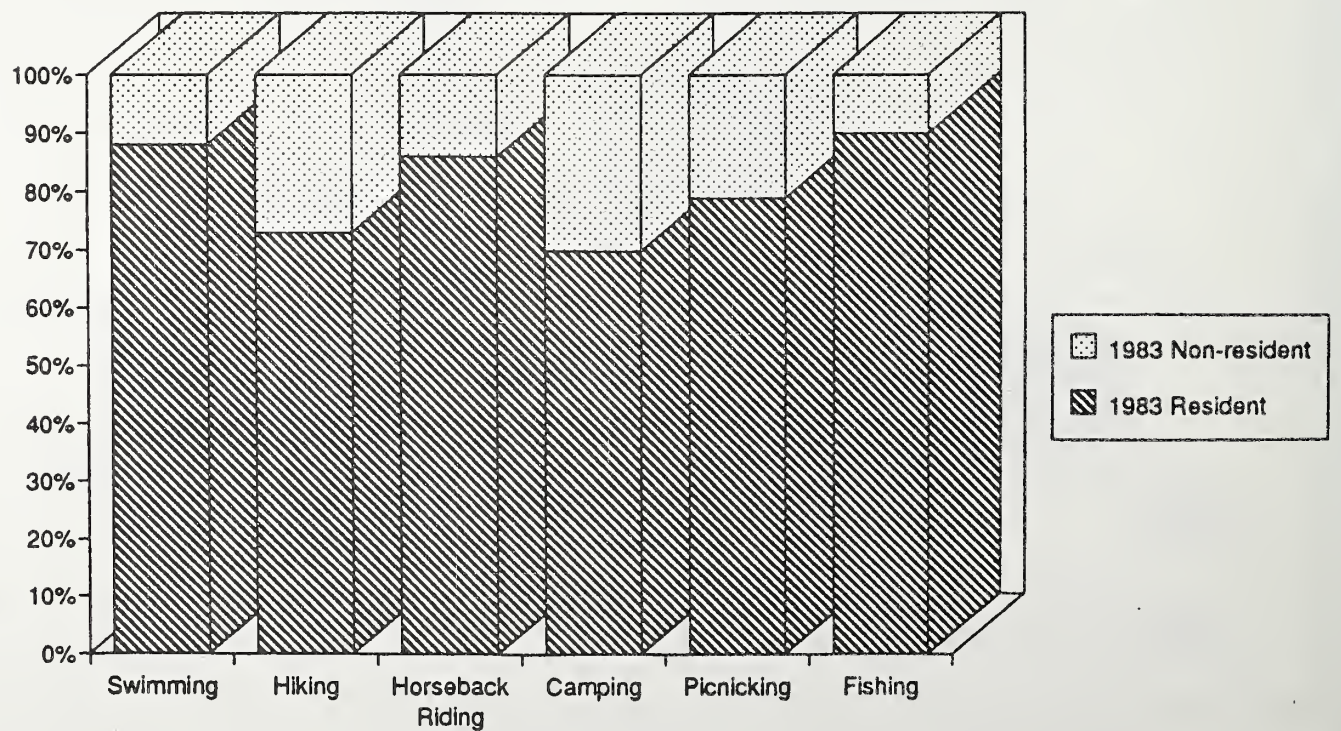
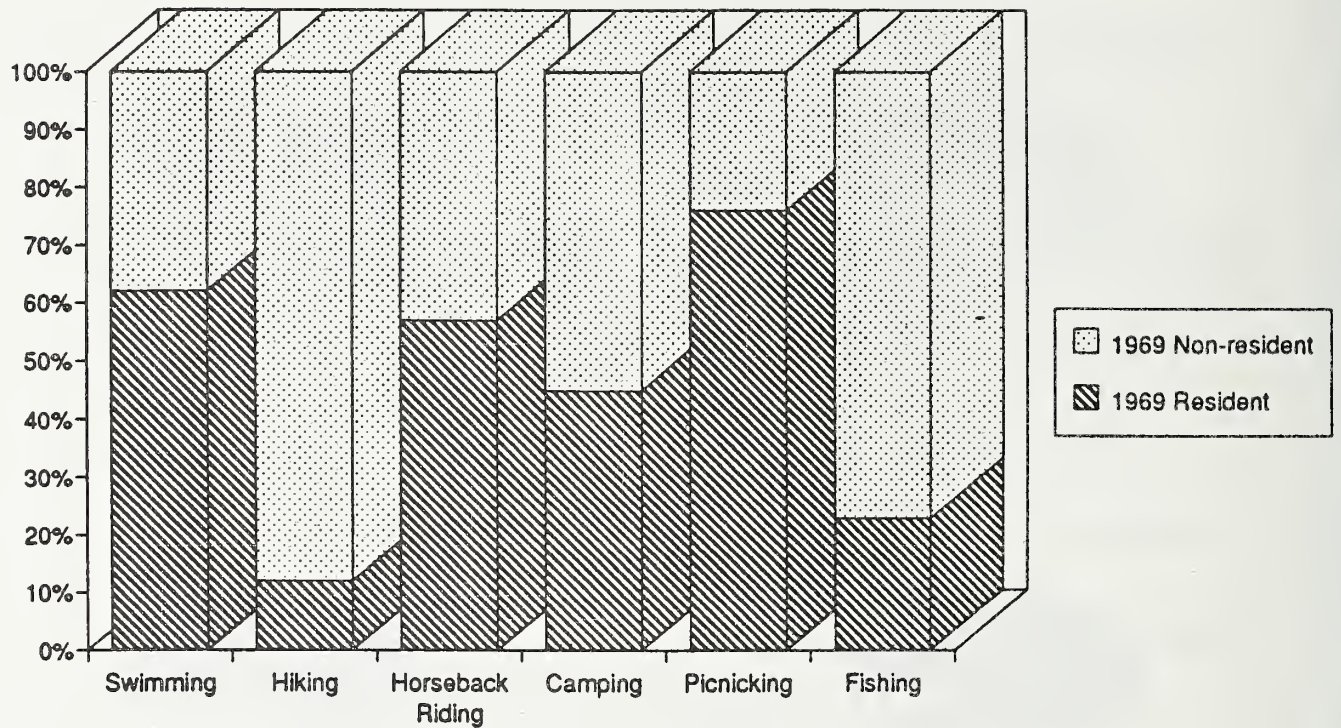
Figure 1:

Most Frequently Participated in Activities by Year<sup>1</sup>



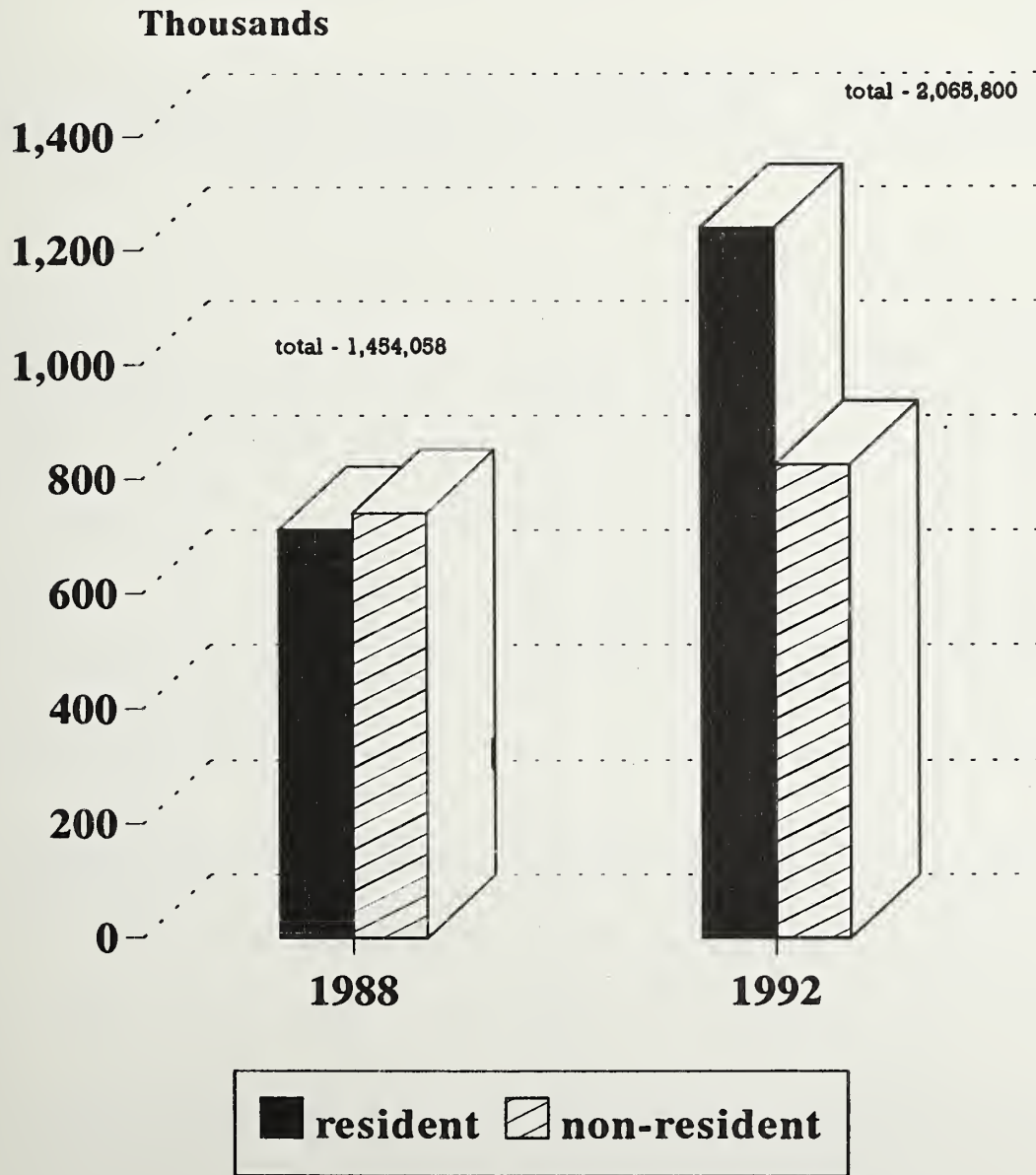
<sup>1</sup>The exploded slice represents the single most participated in activity.

Figure 2: Proportion of Total Participation Attributed to Residents and Non-Residents (1969 and 1983 SCORPs)



In comparison, a shift in resident and non-resident visitation to units of the Montana State Park System was also experienced, with resident use increasing dramatically from 1988 to 1992 (up 74%), compared to an 11% increase in non-resident use.

Figure 3: Resident and Non-Resident Visitation to Montana State Parks, 1988 and 1992



## Barriers to Participation

In early SCORPs, access close to travel routes (1965), and urbanization (1969), were the only two barriers mentioned. In contrast the 1988 SCORP lists 11 barriers. This possibly is a reflection of an overall increase in the magnitude and complexity of social issues related to recreation opportunity, and a continuing shift in demographics and available leisure time from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Table 1: Barriers to Participation in Outdoor Recreation Activities

Barriers	1965	1969	1973	1978	1988
Access close to travel routes	X				
Urbanization		X			
Lack of time					X
Lack of Money					X
Lack of equipment					X
Lack of facilities					X
Lack of other participants					X
Lack of child care					X
Lack of skill					X
Health					X

## Facility Needs and Improvements

Nineteen facility needs and/or activities requiring facility improvements were identified in the SCORPs. Three areas, campground facilities, picnic facilities, and swimming facilities, emerged as needs in four or more of the five SCORPs examined.

Table 2: Summary of Facility and/or Activities Requiring Facility Improvements

Facility/Activity Needs	1965 SCORP	1969 SCORP	1973 SCORP	1978 SCORP	1988 SCORP
Backpacking				X	
Bicycling					X
Boating Facilities	X	X	X		
Campground Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Activities For Senior Citizens			X		
Fishing	X		X		X
Golf (18 Holes/25m)	X	X			
Horseback Riding				X	
Hunting					X
Parks			X		
Picnic Facilities	X	X	X	X	
Playfield -- Acres and Facilities	X	X			
Rest Stops and Facilities			X		
Ski Areas and Facilities			X	X	
Skiing -- Cross Country				X	X
Snowshoeing				X	
Swimming Facilities	X	X	X	X	X
Trees/Scenery Improvements			X		
Youth Facilities			X		

## 1992 Local Government Recreation Facility Inventory

A statewide survey of city, town, county, and tribal governments, including school districts was conducted in the spring of 1992.

Local government agencies were mailed a two page survey form and asked to identify the number of recreational facilities owned. Also asked was an estimate on the number of additional facilities needed to meet demand in five years, and the projected cost of the needed facilities.

- 21 out of 56 counties completed and returned the inventory form for a response rate of 38 percent
- 61 out of 125 city and town governments responded for a response rate of 49 percent.

The graphs below represent the needs as indicated by 7 major Montana cities and 21 counties. Non-respondents will be contacted again in 1993.

Cities: Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City and Missoula (combined population of these cities represents 31% of the state population).

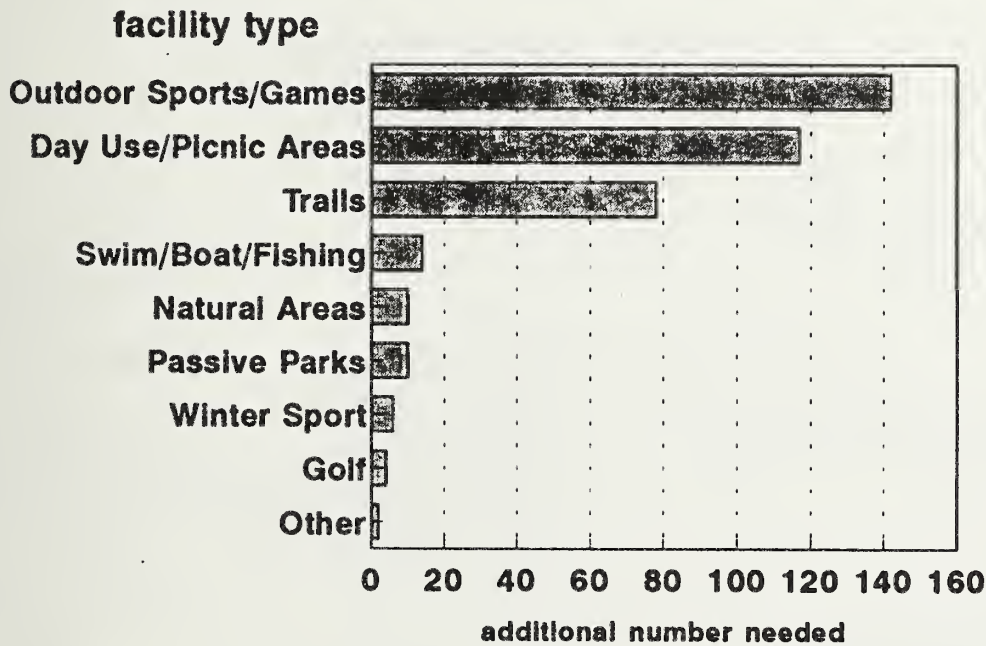
Counties: Cascade, Missoula, Flathead, Fergus, Carbon, Custer, Lake, Dawson, Beaverhead, Chouteau, Powell, Teton, Stillwater, Sheridan, Sanders, Fallon, Sweetgrass, Park, Jefferson, Golden Valley, and Lincoln (combined population of these counties represents 46% of the state population).



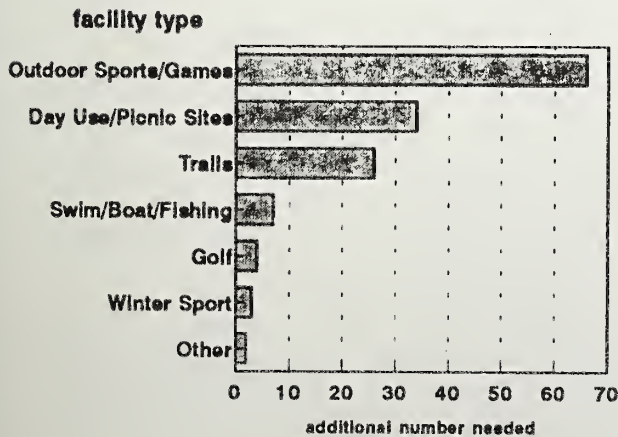


Figure 4: Facility Needs from Selected Counties and Cities

# Most Needed Facilities (for 7 Montana cities & 20 counties)

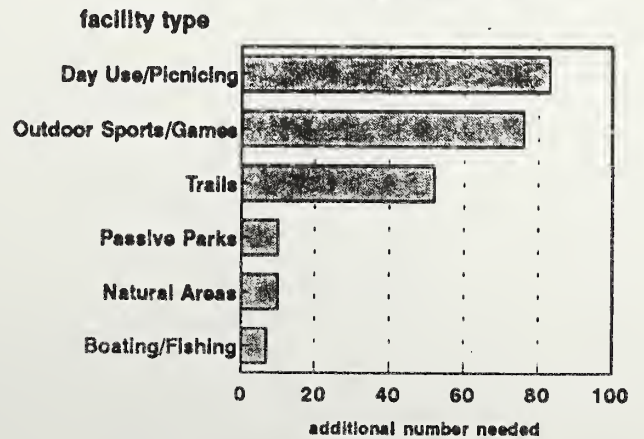


## Most Needed Facilities as listed for 20 Montana counties



## Most Needed Facilities as listed for 7 Montana cities

*(Billings, Bozeman, Great Falls  
Helena, Kalispell, Missoula, Montana)*



## Issues of Concern

A total of 61 issues emerged or were identified in the seven SCORPs.

Table 3: Key Issues by SCORP

### KEY ISSUES

#### 1965 SCORP

1. Lack of Facilities
2. Financing
3. Coordination with Other Groups of Agencies
4. Need for Visitor Use/Activity Data and Resource Inventories
5. Role of Private Enterprise

#### 1967 SCORP

Same Issues as in the 1965 SCORP, plus Quality Aspects and Aesthetic Values, Near-to-Home Facilities, and Montana Unique Opportunities

#### 1969 SCORP

1. Environmental Quality
2. Recreational Development Plan
3. Changing Needs
4. Acquisition
5. Potential Use of Public Land
6. Role of Government

#### 1973 SCORP

1. Dispersed Recreation Use
2. Land Acquisition for Water-Oriented Recreation
3. All-Terrain Vehicles
4. Recreation for the Disadvantaged
5. Non-Resident Recreation
6. Private Sector Recreation
7. Role of Local Community
8. Urban Recreation
9. Role of Individual

#### 1978 SCORP

1. Maintenance of State Parks
2. Alternative Funding Sources

3. Regional Management Plans
4. Off-highway Vehicle Management
5. Administration of Land & Water Conservation Fund Grants
6. Protection of Cultural, Scientific and Recreational Resources

#### 1983 SCORP

1. Recreation access
2. Bikeways
3. Cross-country skiing
4. Destination vacationing
5. Downhill skiing
6. Energy and recreation
7. Recreation and park law enforcement
8. Montana snowmobile program
9. Montana wilderness synopsis

#### 1988 SCORP

1. Funding
2. River Management
3. Tourism
4. Overuse/crowding
5. Recreationist/landowner relations
6. Agency roles
7. Economics
8. Visitor access
9. User fees
10. Wildlife
11. Bicycling
12. Wilderness
13. Mechanized vs non-mechanized
14. Water quality
15. Highways
16. Liability insurance
17. Management decision making
18. Disabled issues
19. Stream access
20. Cross-country skiing
21. Cultural resources
22. Litter/garbage
23. Vandalism/misuse/abuse

Table 4: Key Issues by Category

Category	Year and Issue Number						
Financing/Funding	1965#2	1978#2	1978#5	1988#1	1988#7	1988#9	
Roles in Recreating/ Coordination	1965#3	1965#5	1969#6	1973#6	1973#7	1973#9	1988#6
Liability/Regulation/ Enforcement	1983#7	1988#16	1988#22	1988#23			
Access	1983#1	1988#8	1988#19				
Conflict	1988#2	1988#5	1988#13				
Land Acquisition	1969#4	1973#2					
Winter Sports	1983#3	1983#5	1983#8	1988#20			
Natural Environment/ Environmental Quality	1967#1	1967#3	1969#1	1978#6	1988#14		
Off-Highway/Bikes	1973#3	1978#4	1983#2	1988#11			
Tourism	1965#4	1973#5	1988#3				
Use/Potential Use of Public Lands	1969#5	1973#1					
Wilderness	1983#9	1988#12					
Disadvantaged	1973#4	1988#18					
Energy	1983#4	1983#6					
Maintenance	1978#1	1988#15					
General Facilities	1965#1	1967#2					
Management	1969#2	1978#3					
Wildlife	1988#10						
Cultural Resources	1988#21						
Public Involvement	1988#17						
Urban Recreation	1973#8						
Crowding	1988#4						
Changing Needs	1969#3						

Key to numbers = first four digits indicate the SCORP year and the following number represents the corresponding issue number from Table 5. For example, there were six issues that dealt with financing/funding. In 1978 there were two issues related to this: one dealt with alternative funding sources and the other with the administration of land & Water Conservation fund grants.

In comparison, a national survey of SCORP issues identified a lack of sufficient or stable funding, natural resources protection and management, increasing public awareness, coordination and cooperation among the public and private sector, and the management and maintenance of facilities as the five most frequently mentioned issues.

Table 5: Frequently of Issues in SCORPs Nationwide

Issue	Description	Freq.
Inadequate funding	Lack of sufficient or stable funds	41
Natural resources	Protection and management of natural areas	41
Information and Education	Increasing the public's awareness	32
Coordination and Cooperation	Sharing of responsibility among public and private	27
Management and Maintenance	Increasing agency ability to operate facilities	23
Special Populations	Provision of adequate opportunities	22
Land Acquisition	Acquisition of additional outdoor recreation lands	21
Access to Public Lands	Improving the ability of the public to use lands	19
Urban and Local Recreation	Provision of adequate close-to-home opportunities	18
Facility Development	Need for more recreation facilities to meet demand	17
Historic and Cultural	Better protection and management of resources	16
Environmental Quality	Concerns about toxics, water quality, etc.	14
Comprehensive Planning	Need for long-range comprehensive planning	13
Open Space, Greenways	Acquisition of land for urban purposes	13
Wetlands	Acquisition and management of wetlands	12
Water-Based Recreation	Creation of opportunities for water-based recreation	12
Tourism, Economic Development	Value of recreation for tourism, economic development	12
Economic Values	Understanding of economic benefits	10

Table 5 (continued)

Issue	Description	Freq.
Trails	Development of trails on land and water	10
Rivers, Floodplains	Acquisition of flowing waters and adjacent lands	10
Private Lands and Facilities	Increased participation of the private sector	10
Population Pressures	Problems caused by growth and distribution of population	10
Law Enforcement	Issues of public safety and comfort	8
Liability	Problems related to insurance and risk management	8
General Research	Basic and applied research related to outdoor recreation	6

<sup>1</sup>Reprinted with permission from *Parks & Recreation*, September 1991, page 91.

## Recommendations for Future SCORPs

Consistency must be established in the SCORP process, including methodologies used to measure participation, definitions of activities, projections, identifying needs and issues, the development of overall goals and specific objectives, and monitoring of the plans implementation.

### Table 6. Summary of Recommendations

#### Section 1: Recreation Participation

1. Include more detailed explanations
2. Include operational definitions
3. Use a consistent set of activities
4. Use the same interval when making projections and make a consistent number of projections
5. Use a standard methodology to make projections

#### Section 2: Issues and Actions

1. Add a "monitoring" section
2. Establish a specific format
3. Explain how issues were delineated

#### Section 3: Recreation Needs

1. Use a consistent method for determining needs
2. Establish a specific unit of measurement for reporting needs
3. Add a section on how the need is to be addressed
4. Prioritize recreation needs
5. Base demand on participation and levels of satisfaction
6. Identify current and projected needs
7. Add a "monitoring" section
8. Identify changes in supply

## 1993 SCORP FOCUS AREAS

Based on the results of the trend analysis, the local government recreation facility and needs inventory, and public comment received, the focus areas for the 1993 SCORP are as follows:

1. Development of an Interagency Comprehensive Statewide Trails Plan
2. Enhancement of park related day use/picnicking recreational opportunities, including overnight camping opportunities within the Montana State Park System.
3. Improvement of the process by which LWCF revenue is allocated for local and state projects.

The trend analysis of recreation participation indicated that five activities displayed relative stability over a ten year period, those being fishing, horseback riding, picnicking, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. Picnicking was consistently the most participated in activity. Two activities, hunting and bicycling, showed modest increases. Downhill skiing participation displayed a dramatic increase over the past ten years.

All of the aforementioned activities can be categorized into one of the three 1993 SCORP focus areas. Trail related activities include cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, and bicycling. Picnicking is a major pastime of public park users, and local, county, and state parks offer a diversity of opportunity for this activity. Due to financial instability within most local and state government agencies, the quality of the associated recreational experience is in jeopardy. Camping was the only activity that displayed a decrease in participation over the ten year study period. This may be due to the gradual deterioration of public campgrounds, again directly related to inadequate maintenance and operations funding. Since there is an increasingly important link developing between state parks and Montana's fast growing tourism industry, with state parks a major provider of this activity, the 1993 SCORP will focus on possible avenues of enhancing overnight camping opportunities in state parks. A survey of non-resident visitors to three state park campgrounds, as outlined in the Tourism and Marketing Enhancement Plan (appendix H), shows campground improvements as the most frequently mentioned need. Camping was also consistently mentioned as one of the most popular activities for non-resident visitors.

Along with camping facilities, the enhancement and provision of picnic facilities, and swimming facilities were also consistently identified needs over the course of the study.

Issue trends concerned with funding and financing, roles in recreation and agency coordination, the environment, and tourism were consistently mentioned. The funding and financing of recreational facilities, programs, and opportunities particularly relates to the LWCF enhancement and improvement focus area, since the primary purpose of the LWCF program is to provide local communities with matching federal funds for this purpose. The LWCF program remains one of the primary means by which local community recreation projects are funded throughout the State.

Further justification for the focus areas is outlined in a research report published in October, 1991 by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research on Montana resident travel. Table 7 on page 19 summarizes the activity participation patterns of respondents to a statewide telephone survey conducted in 1989.

The National Park Service, in the 1991 Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program Annual Report strongly endorses the development of comprehensive state trails plans as integral components of the future National Trails System plan. It is also recommended that trails planning be incorporated into SCORP.

The incorporation of a statewide trails plan into the SCORP process is perhaps the most significant focus area, in that the development of trails and trail systems encompasses and enhances a wide variety of outdoor recreation activities, including all of the travel and nature-based activities listed in table 7. Recreational access, natural resource interpretation and education, tourism, and recreation and tourism related industries will all benefit from the development of a state trails plan.





Table 7. Individual Adult Participation Rates for Selected Recreational Activities, by Tourism County of Residence, in Percent, as Reported in The Montana Resident Pleasure Travel Study, Characteristics and Economic Impacts, 1989-1990.

Activity	<u>Residence</u>						
	Glacier n = 986	Gold West n = 571	Charlie Russell n = 645	Yellowstone n = 381	Missouri River n = 200	Custer n = 749	State n = 3,533
<u>Travel/Nature-Based Activities</u>							
Backpacking	20	18	11	26	9	13	17
Bicycling	43	13	32	47	31	39	39
Camping	56	56	46	57	39	50	52
Horseback Riding	17	20	22	28	22	24	21
Hunting	43	44	40	45	50	41	43
Jogging	27	30	26	29	25	29	28
Nature Study	26	27	23	31	15	25	25
Off-road 4WD	25	33	27	29	33	30	28
Motorcycling or ATV	17	22	18	15	23	19	18
Picnicking	76	76	67	75	69	73	73
Day Hiking	68	67	57	71	54	58	63
<u>Water-Based Activities</u>							
Canoeing	14	13	8	14	6	8	11
Fishing	58	62	56	62	55	59	59
Motorboating	32	40	29	24	37	27	31
Rafting	25	18	11	29	5	13	18
Pool Swimming	45	55	43	50	48	51	48
Lake/Stream Swimming	54	51	36	38	44	40	44
Waterskiing	19	25	16	16	23	17	19
<u>Snow-Based Activities</u>							
X-Country Skiing	23	20	11	29	4	14	18
Alpine Skiing	24	32	20	36	17	21	25
Ice Skating	14	17	11	19	24	14	15
Snowmobiling	12	20	15	18	20	16	16

## MONTANA WETLANDS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has assumed the lead role for the inventory and rating of wetlands in Montana since the passage of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986.

The USFWS is currently directing the National Wetlands Inventory Project. Montana remains the least mapped state in USFWS Region 6 under the National Wetlands Inventory. Final inventory maps are being produced for the Flathead Indian reservation in cooperation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Draft maps will also be available for Glacier National Park and surrounding area as a result of cooperation with the Park Service. These two projects will complete the inventory for the entire Flathead Valley in northwestern Montana. Draft maps will also be produced for that portion of the Prairie Pothole Region from Bowdoin National Wildlife Refuge to the East Front of the Rockies. Red Rocks Lake NWR and the surrounding areas will have draft maps in 1992. Plans are to begin a major inventory in eastern Montana in 1994.

The Regional Wetlands Concept Plan for the Mountain-Prairie Region was completed by the USFWS in July of 1990. This document is intended to provide guidance for the states if they decide to use LWCF monies to acquire wetlands. The plan in its entirety is presented in Appendix A of the full SCORP report.

### State Priorities

Guidelines being developed by the USFWS will be instrumental in the prioritization of potential acquisition activities under the LWCF program. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has not yet developed a separate prioritized ranking of wetlands for acquisition. The efforts of the USFWS, however, have laid out some guidelines for wetland protection within the state.

Appendix C of the full SCORP report contains a list of wetlands in Montana that meet the threshold criteria of the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan.

Currently less than \$1,000,000 is available from other funding sources and programs for wetlands work in the state. Most of the dollars available are targeted for enhancement or development work and do not include acquisition. Unfortunately, the low level of funding currently allocated to the stateside LWCF program precludes the acquisition of wetlands as a high priority for LWCF revenue in Montana.

Montana wetlands have not been negatively impacted to the degree of the prairie pothole regions of the Dakotas and Minnesota.

However, wetland drainage, intensified agricultural activities, timber and mining operations, and subdivision development continue to reduce the productivity of wetlands within the state.

No change in the LWCF priority rating system is anticipated for wetland acquisition purposes at this time.



## PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The 1993 SCORP utilized independent studies, public comment, and input from past SCORPs in the development of the final report, as outlined in the trend analysis. The draft report was also circulated for a period of 60 days for public comment.

Considerable public involvement was generated through various surveys and inventories.

The State Park Futures Committee Report (appendix D of the full report) is based on series of 15 public meetings attended by over 500 people in 15 communities across the state, and a statewide newspaper survey. The public meetings and survey assessed Montanan's feelings and attitudes about the current and future condition of the state park system.

The Tourism and Marketing Enhancement Plan (appendix H of the full report) included a series of public focus group sessions in three different regions of the state. The focus group sessions allowed people to express their views on the development and enhancement of three state parks in their respective regions as destination tourist attractions.

The 1992 State Parks Visitor Survey evaluated current and proposed state park funding and management options using a combination of on-site and mail out questionnaires, and a statewide telephone survey. Nearly 1000 Montanans participated in this study.

The 1992 Local Government Recreation Facility and Needs Inventory (appendix J of the full report) updated information on the numbers and types of various recreational facilities owned by city, town, county and Indian Nation governments, including school districts. Also requested as part of the inventory was an estimation of the number of additional facilities needed to meet demand in five years, and an estimated cost of providing those facilities. Over 200 communities and school districts statewide were included in the inventory and needs assessment.

## OUTLINE OF THE PLAN

The 1993 Montana SCORP is organized into six sections. The first section contains the Analysis of Trends report. The Trend Analysis reviewed the findings and information contained from each of the seven previous Montana SCORPs.

Section II outlines the focus areas for the 1993 SCORP.

Section III, the Implementation Plan, presents the issues that will be addressed during the next SCORP planning cycle. Also included is a new LWCF Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) for evaluation of project proposals requesting matching grant assistance. Based on the findings of the trend analysis and the local government facility and needs inventory, three new criteria have been added to the OPSP.

The fourth section consists of the Montana wetlands portion of the SCORP, as required by National Park Service SCORP guidelines.

Section V contains a summary of public comment received during the official public comment period, which ran from October 15 to December 15, 1992. Also contained in this section is an overview of the public involvement process utilized with the various SCORP special projects.

Section VI (appendices) contains research, inventory, and project reports conducted as part of the SCORP process. Also provided is the new Montana Recreation Guide which gives an overview of the State's natural and wild resources, and recreational opportunities.

## CONCLUSION

The information contained in this executive summary only represents some of the detailed material found in the complete Montana 1993 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

To receive a copy of the complete 1993 SCORP, please contact:

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
State Parks Division  
Program Development Bureau, attn. SCORP program  
1420 East 6th, Helena, Montana 59620  
(406) 444-3750





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